<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 1, 3, 5 to 8, 11 and 13 to 16 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 19, 21 and 22 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) Search apparatus according to claim <u>23</u> [[1]], wherein <u>the predefined syntactic relationship is</u> ~~said generating means is adapted to generate the one or more unmatched units of the context data having~~ a predefined modification relationship to the respective matched units.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) Search apparatus according to claim <u>23</u> [[1]], wherein said ~~generating means operates in accordance with~~ one or more rules <u>contain</u> ~~containing~~ syntactic and semantic constraints for the formation of the context data.

5. to 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A computer implemented data processing method for processing data to enhance the results of a search for data in the form of units of a natural language, the method comprising:

receiving an input query in the form of units of the natural language and outputting a result in the form of output data;

searching for and identifying any matches between the units of the input query and units of the data using reference data from said database so ~~as~~ [[ast]] to identify matched units, and any unmatched units syntactically linked to the matched units <u>and including a head unit</u> <u>which does not modify another unit</u>;

<u>parsing one or both of the input query and the output of the searching step to</u> <u>determine linguistic relationships between the units;</u>

~~for any matched units in the reference data,~~ generating<u>, where there are unmatched</u> <u>units in the query,</u> context data in the form of one or more unmatched units of the reference data, <u>in accordance with one or more rules defining contextually important modification relationships</u> <u>between matched and unmatched units,</u> each unmatched unit having a predefined syntactic relationship to one or more of the matched units; and

forming <u>said</u> output data as <u>a layered hierarchical structure formed from said head</u> <u>unit of the input query, with</u> ~~any said matched units and any respective~~ said context data <u>for said</u> <u>head unit forming one or more sublayers of said hierarchical structure, any further matched units</u> <u>forming further sublayers of said sublayers, the order of selection of said further matched units</u> <u>being dependent on their modification relationship within the input query, and any said context</u> <u>data for said further matched units forming yet further sublayers, said sets of data being identified</u>

by a final said sublayer in the hierarchical structure, and generating display data from said output data representing said hierarchical structure whereby a user of the search is presented with a plurality of choices comprising the best matches to the input query ordered in accordance with the contest data.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~predefined~~ syntactic relationship is ~~one or more unmatched units of the context data is generated having~~ a predefined modification relationship ~~to the respective matched units~~.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~context data is generated in accordance with~~ one or more rules ~~contain~~ containing syntactic and semantic constraints for the formation of the context data.

13. to 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) Data retrieval apparatus, including the search apparatus according to claim 23, for retrieving desired information units of a natural language from a plurality of available information units, the data retrieval apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting the [[a]] query in units of the natural language;

matching means for searching for and identifying any matches between the units of the input query and the units of the available information units to identify the best matches between the input query and the plurality of available information units;

generating means for receiving the best matches and where there are unmatched units in one or both of the input query and the information units, for generating context data in the form of one or more unmatched units each having a predefined syntactic relationship to one or more of the matched units; and

output means for outputting the output data representing desired information units as the best matches and any respective said context data.

18. (Original) Data retrieval apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said output means is adapted to output the desired information units ordered by said context data.

19. (Currently amended) The A computer implemented data retrieval method according to claim 9, wherein a query for retrieving desired information units containing units of a natural language for a plurality of available information units is received in said receiving step; and the method comprising:

inputting a query in units of the natural language;

searching for and identifying any matches between the units of the input query and the units of the available information units to identify the best matches between the input query and the plurality of available information units;

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for the best matches where there are unmatched units in one or both of the query and the information units, generating context data in the form of one or more unmatched units each having a predefined syntactic relationship to one or more of the matched units; and

the output data representing ~~outputting~~ desired information units is output as the best matches and any respective said context data in said outputting step.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the desired information units are output ordered by said context data.

21. (Currently amended) A carrier medium carrying processor implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method of <u>claim</u> ~~any one of claims~~ 9 ~~to 16, 19 or 20~~.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) Search apparatus for searching a database for data in the form of units of a natural language, the apparatus comprising:

interface means for receiving an input query in the form of units of the natural language and for outputting the results of the search;

matching means for searching for and identifying any matches between the units of the input query and the units of the data using reference data from said database so as to identify matched units, any unmatched units syntactically linked to the matched units and including a head unit which does not modify another unit;

parsing means for parsing one or both of the input query and the output of the matching means to determine linguistic relationships between the units;

generating means for, where there are unmatched units in the query, generating context data in the form of one or more unmatched units of the reference data, each unmatched unit having a predefined syntactic relationship to one or more of the matched units, said generating means operating in accordance with one or more rules defining contextually important modification relationships between matched and unmatched units; and

forming means for forming said output data as a layered hierarchical structure formed from said head unit of the input query, with said context data for said head unit forming one or more sublayers of said hierarchical structure, any further matched units forming further sublayers of said sublayers, the order of selection of said further matched units being dependent on their modification relationship within the input query, and any said context data for said further matched units forming yet further sublayers, said sets of data being identified by a final said sublayer in the hierarchical structure; and means for generating display data from said output data representing said hierarchical structure whereby a user of the search apparatus is presented with a plurality of choices comprising the best matches to the input query ordered in accordance with the context data.